

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A removable gripping device for a container, comprising:

two members forming a gripper mounted on a gripping body in which one of the members forming the gripper is mobile and free to move in translation with respect to the gripping body along a direction approximately parallel to a longitudinal direction of the gripping body between an open position and a closed position in which the members forming the gripper are adapted to grip an edge of the container,

displacement means for displacing the members forming the gripper with respect to each other, said displacement means comprising a lever free to move in rotation with respect to the gripping body between an extended position and a retracted position in which the mobile member forming the gripper is in a closed position, and a transmission means extending between the lever and the mobile member forming ~~the~~ the gripper for displacing the mobile member forming ~~the~~ the gripper in translation when the lever is pivoted, said displacement means being shaped such that the lever is in a stable equilibrium position when in the extended position and when in the retracted position, and the lever passes through an unstable equilibrium position when passing from one of these two stable equilibrium positions to the other, and

~~locking means separate from the displacement means free to move between an active position and a locked position in which the locking means prevent the lever from accidentally rotating to said unstable equilibrium position, the locking means prevent the lever from accidentally rotating to said unstable equilibrium position, the locking means preventing the lever from rotating to said unstable equilibrium position, the locking means being pushed towards the locking position by a return means and comprising an activation button to be maneuvered manually to enable the locking means to move into the active position in which the lever can change from the retracted position to the extended position~~

locking means for preventing said lever from moving from said retracted position to said unstable equilibrium position, said locking means being separate from said displacement means and said one member, said locking means having a portion which engages said lever when said lever is in said retracted position and which disengages from said lever when said locking means is moved into an active position, thereby allowing said lever to move from said retracted position to said extended position, and an activation button for moving said locking means into said active position, said activation button being separate from said lever.

20. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the locking means are installed in translation on the gripping body along a direction approximately parallel to the longitudinal direction of the gripping body.

21. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the locking means are closer to the members

forming the gripper when the locking means are in the locked position than when the locking means are in the active position.

22. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the locking means cooperate with the lever by click fitting.

23. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the locking means comprise a tab in which an opening is formed, in which a hook of the lever is engaged when the locking means are in the locked position, and is released from the hook when the locking means are in the active position.

24. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 23, wherein the hook comprises an upper surface adapted to entrain the locking means from their active position towards a position enabling click fitting of the hook in the opening, when the lever is pivoted into the retracted position.

25. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim ~~24~~ 19, wherein the activation button projects from a surface of the gripping body opposite a surface on which the lever is ~~fixed~~ hinged.

26. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim ~~25~~ 23, wherein the activation button projects from a surface of the gripping body opposite a surface on which the lever is hinged and the mobile member forming the gripper has a groove through which the activation button is solidarized to the tab.

27. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the locking means and the lever are shaped such that when the locking means are displaced from the locked position to ~~in~~ the active position they are adapted to make the lever move from the retracted position to the extended position.

28. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim ~~23~~ 27, wherein the locking means comprise an element forming an inclined plane adapted firstly to stop in contact with a contact surface of the lever when the locking means are in the active position, and secondly to impose a pivoting movement on the lever, to move the lever from the retracted position to a position in which the lever is moved to the extended position by the transmission means alone.

29. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim 28, wherein the locking means comprise a tab in which an opening is formed, in which a hook of the lever is engaged when the locking means are in the locked position, and is released from the hook when the locking means are in the active position, the hook ~~is~~ being released from the opening by translation of the locking means towards the active position before the inclined plane stops in contact with the contact surface.

30. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the displacement means adjust a distance separating the two members forming the gripper in the closed position to match a thickness of the gripped container.

31. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 30, wherein a spring acts on the mobile member so as to enable adjustment of the distance separating the two members forming the gripper and is housed in the transmission means.

32. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the transmission means are formed by a connecting rod free to rotate with respect to the lever and to the mobile member forming the gripper.

33. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 32, wherein the connecting rod is free to move in rotation with respect to the lever under the control of a shaft that is located close to an end of the lever opposite an end at which the lever is hinged to the gripping body.

34 - 35. (cancelled)

36 (new) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein said removable gripping device comprises a return means pushing the locking means in a locked position in which said portion engages said lever when said lever is in said retracted position.